

tribe, and associates, and party have done since 1866; and I am not sure but what that is what is the matter with the hon. gentleman and his friends. They knew how barren have been the results of their trips to Washington, and they are displeased that a private member of the Liberal party has been instrumental in securing the abrogation of the duties upon products of Canada, the export of which to the United States amount to \$13,000,000 a year, and which the hon. gentlemen have seized upon as a hawk seizes upon chickens, and having seized upon the advantage that has been presented to them, they now find fault with the man that secured it, if these allegations concerning him are true.

The hon. gentleman from Grey (Mr. Sproule) tells us that the proviso, as it left the Committee of Ways and Means, would have passed but for me. That hon. gentleman can hardly be accepted as an authority upon American matters. He was never in Washington. I tell the hon. gentleman that he is entirely misinformed, that he knows nothing about it. That proviso was submitted to the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury at Washington, having charge in lumber matters, and the Assistant Secretary gave a decision with regard to the interpretation of that proviso, which at once arrayed the hostility of the Michigan men against it. He gave the decision that the proviso was only applicable to saw-logs, that if a foreign government put an export duty on saw-logs, all the remedy the United States would have under that Bill, would be to put a duty on saw-logs also; and when that authoritative exposition of the meaning of the proviso, was given by the Treasury Department, every Michigan man in the House, or in the Senate, was at once arrayed against the Bill, as it then stood. The hon. gentleman talks about my interests in Michigan. I am interested in Michigan, and I am interested in Tonawanda. My interests in Michigan consist of a few acres of stump lands, as they are termed, stripped years ago, and I will sell them to the hon. gentleman for 50 cents per acre. My chief interests are in Canada. My desire was to benefit those interests, my desire was to benefit the interests of those who, like myself, are engaged in lumbering. I wanted to remove from their shoulders the onerous burden that rested upon the lumbering industry. I wanted to secure this concession to the Americans with regard to the export duty that was an advantage to them. I wanted to secure one advantage by granting another concession, which was also really an advantage to us; and if I was personally interested in this matter it does not militate against me at all, if I was acting in the interests of the country, if I was acting in the interests of the large class of people in this country. The resolution of the Ottawa Valley lumbermen with regard to this matter makes it pretty

clear, I imagine, that in doing this I was acting in their interests, and if I was acting in the interests of the lumbermen, I was also acting in the interests of the commercial classes of Canada at large.

Now, I shall say but few words more. I will call attention again to two of these letters. I do not suppose it will be asserted that in addition to directing the Michigan delegation that went to Washington, and in addition to running the lumbermen interested in the Ottawa Valley, I was likewise dictating the course that should be pursued by the Committee of Ways and Means, and by the president of the Finance Committee of the United States Senate, and by a candidate for the governorship of Michigan, and pretty much everybody else in the United States. I hardly desire to aspire to the credit of having such wide-spread influence as that. Here are letters from gentlemen whom I could not influence, whom no individual in this House could influence. The letter of the president of the Finance Committee, Senator Voorhees, I will read again, in order that the House may understand what that gentleman says with regard to this very matter, and may appreciate the necessity that existed for securing an arrangement with regard to that export duty proviso that would allay the opposition of the Michigan men to the passage of the free-lumber clauses. Senator Voorhees said:

My attention has been called to some attacks upon you in the Canadian journals, based upon the assertion that you suggested the export duty proviso in the wood schedule of the Wilson Bill. The attacks seem to me so unfair that I take the liberty of writing to say that the proviso is understood.

Senator Voorhees would be very apt to understand this matter.

To have secured the support of the Michigan members for free lumber. It is not unlikely that the active hostility of Michigan would have defeated free lumber, and without the export duty proviso, that hostility, there is little reason to doubt, would have been vigorously applied.

That is the statement of Senator Voorhees, president of the Finance Committee. He states explicitly that this proviso is understood to have secured the support of the Michigan delegation. He states further that otherwise Michigan would have defeated free lumber; and he states still further that there is little reason to doubt that the hostility would have been actively applied if this export duty proviso had not been made. Mr. Whiting, a member of the Committee of Ways and Means is a prominent and weighty man in Michigan, he has represented a congressional district of that state for many years as a member of Congress, and occupies an influential position. He writes:

I note a disposition to criticise you because of the clause in our Bill to require free logs from Canada as the price of free lumber. I can say